

Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
July 13, 2005

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) reported that several fires have been started in the region during the past week. 1) In the Santa Fe Watershed, a lightning fire was ignited on July 12 and has burned about 2 acres. This fire is still active. 2) Several fires were ignited in the upper Frijoles Canyon area on July 5. One of these fires was on Bandelier National Monument and the others were on adjacent Santa Fe National Forest lands. 3) A burning cigarette ignited a fire along State Highway 4 at the Tsankawi area on July 7. This fire burned about 2 acres on both LANL and Bandelier properties, and caused the temporary closure of the highway. Doug also reported that the Santa Fe National Forest is considering Stage 2 Fire Restrictions for possible implementation on July 15.

Marla Rodgers (Bandelier National Monument) thanked the Los Alamos County Fire Department and the LANL Emergency Management and Response team for assisting with the suppression of the fire in the Tsankawi area, and for coordinating traffic control and other measures to protect the public.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) has completed fire hazard monitoring at sixteen plots. Currently, several unthinned and unburned mixed conifer forest plots in the Dome Road and the Frijoles drainage areas have been sampled. Randy noted that drought-related tree mortality is evident at these plots, which are located between 8000 and 9000 feet above mean sea level. Nearby plots that had been severely burned in the Cerro Grande Fire will also be sampled. Randy also reported on recent data analyses that quantify the progress toward the reduction of fire hazards at LANL during the past ten years.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, July 27, at TA-21, Building 210 in the ENV-ECO (Ecology Group) Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 505-665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.